



TO: Sen. Dante Bartolomeo and Rep. Diana Urban, Chairmen,
and Members of the Committee on Children

RE: Public Hearing March 6, 2014

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is the statewide, non-profit coalition of river organizations, individuals, and businesses formed to protect and enhance Connecticut's waters by promoting sound water policies, uniting and strengthening the state's many river groups, and educating the public about the importance of water stewardship.

Rivers Alliance writes in strong support of SB 46, AAC Concerning Pesticides on School Grounds. I am attaching to these remarks the American Academy of Pediatrics 2012 Technical Report *Pesticide Exposure in Children*. The report is chilling. You will see in the Abstract that the doctors have found associations between pesticide use and children's cancers and neurodevelopmental disorders; and they state that additional data suggests an association between parental pesticide use and adverse birth outcomes. It concludes: "Children's exposure to pesticides should be limited as much as possible."

Rivers Alliance comes to concern about lawn pesticides through study of the pesticides in *all* the nation's rivers and streams (US Geological Survey, 2006). Pesticides use is a major contributor to the die-off of freshwater species; these creatures lead the pack in the mass extinction of species now underway in North America and around the world.

Some of the texts arguing for the safety of pesticides maintain that, while the substances may be harmful or lethal to frogs, fish, and turtles, they are not harmful to humans (used as directed, of course). Read a little further in the literature, and you will find recommendations that pregnant women, babies, and toddlers should avoid exposure; farm workers should handle the products with care; factory workers should wear safety masks, and so forth through the entire population and our pets.

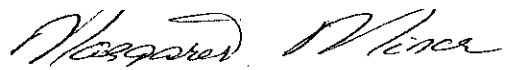
Some proponents of pesticide use maintain that children will be protected if everyone practices Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which is presented as if

it were an established protocol or regulation. But there are no rules or means of enforcement. (There are guidelines, which an applicator may follow or not.) And this state has no way of knowing the cumulative amounts used in any given area or watershed.

On a personal note, one of my little cousins died at age 8 of a cancer located at the brain stem, behind her ear. It was a prolonged, very painful ordeal. The cause was not known. But I concluded that children should be protected as far as possible from any exposures linked to cancer, and pesticide exposure falls into this category.

It's not necessary to treat playing fields or school lawns with pesticides. Such treatments pose an unreasonable health risk to children, pregnant women, older adults, pets, domesticated animals, and wildlife.

Thank you for your care to protect children.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Margaret Miner".

Margaret Miner
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